

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

SINCE 1877
10, 2006
VOL. 130
No. 31

JULY 22 2006



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

So. Baptists ministering in war zone

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP) — Amid the darkness and suffering of war, a ray of light is shining in Lebanon. For weeks, Lebanese Baptists and other Christians have been housing, feeding, and loving hundreds of mostly Shiite Muslim families driven from their homes in Beirut's southern suburbs and towns farther south by the battles between Hezbollah guerrillas and the Israeli military.

During normal times, the two groups might never encounter one another, much less form friendships, in Lebanon's uneasy mix of religious and ethnic factions, but these aren't normal times.

While Lebanese Baptists help refugees in Beirut, Southern Baptists in the region are channelling nearly \$50,000 in aid to Lebanese Christians to provide food, medicine, blankets, and other supplies to families fleeing the fighting in the south. Baptists in Israel also are assisting people in need in northern Israel, where Hezbollah rockets continue to fall.

Up to 750,000 Lebanese have been displaced by the war so far. Many of them have flooded into hundreds of schools and other temporary shelters, including the Beirut Baptist School and the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut. Some 1,000 refugees are living at the two schools until they can return to their homes.

"We are fully packed right now," said Nabil Costa, director of the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development (also known as the Lebanese Baptist Society). "We cannot take anyone more, and yet we squeeze more in. But we are happy serving all those people."

"It was God's timing. It was not our choice but we feel we are more ready to serve people from different backgrounds



TIME FOR PRAYER — Lebanese Christians and volunteers from several countries pray for peace in an undisclosed location near Beirut as fighting rages between Hezbollah guerrillas and Israeli forces. (BP photo)

because we saw their suffering, and they are ready to receive how we are helping them."

With aid from Baptists and others worldwide, the Lebanese believers are providing food, medicine and other essentials to refugees at the two schools — and to several hundred other nearby people.

Refugee families crowd the classrooms at the schools, their laundry hanging out the windows. Baptists and other volunteers cook meals, clean, play with the children and do what they can to create a safe refuge in the midst of a terrible situation.

"They trust us," Costa said. "We are not trying to force anything on them. The first thing they ask us is, 'Do you want to convert us to Christianity?' And we tell them, '... You are here because we love you. We want to show you that we love you and take care of

you.' We are earning our Christian credibility."

"Pray that we do not grow weary and that we will show our genuine love to the people who we usually do not deal with, and in certain cases to the people who we think are the cause of our troubles. This is our real challenge now as Christians, to show them our genuine love not only by talking, but by living and by giving and sacrificing. This is what true Christianity is."

Meanwhile, Southern Baptists in the region have earmarked nearly \$50,000 to help Lebanese believers aid villagers in areas hit hard by the fighting.

"The biggest needs right now without a doubt are food, medicine, pallets to sleep on and blankets," said a Southern Baptist in the region working to channel the aid funds to Lebanese Christian workers.

Miss. CP slows in July

Gifts to the work of the Lord through the Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) dropped in July when compared to the previous month and year — a slump that arrives at about the same time every summer, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the funds. The July total of \$2,250,405 was 21.1% lower than the \$2,851,340 given last month, and 1.8% lower than the \$2,291,652 given in the same period in 2005. Total Mississippi CP giving for the current fiscal year, which runs from January-December, stands at \$20,042,644, which is 5.8% above last year's giving during the same period and 9.7% ahead of current year budget needs. The 2006 Mississippi CP budget of \$31,314,491, was approved by messengers to the 2005 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. A total of \$2,609,541 is needed each month to meet the convention-board's budget for 2006. In addition to helping support more than 10,700 missionaries in the U.S. and around the world through affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention, Mississippi CP also helps fund such programs as the Church Leader Training events sponsored by the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union at various locations around the state in late summer; and the Regional Senior Adult Rallies at various locations around the state sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

SBC CP down for month

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) for July were \$16,328,110, five percent, or \$854,396 below the \$17,182,506 given in June, and 12.4%, or \$2,316,648, below the \$18,644,758 received in July 2005, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman. Designated giving of \$182,780,346 for the same year-to-date period is 2.3%, or \$4,054,558 above gifts of \$178,725,788 received at this point last year. The \$9,843,608 in designated gifts received last month is \$2,015,837 above the \$7,827,770 received in July 2005, an increase of 25.75%. For the SBC CP Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total of \$167,602,584 is 106% of the \$158,221,046 budgeted to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. The Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions and fellowships for distribution according to the 2004-05 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.
Perkins Jr.**

Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Matt Broome
mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Mack Amis, McComb
James Beasley, Crystal Springs
Al Green Jr., Bay St. Louis
Rick Henson, Brandon
Beverly Pyron, Natchez
Billy Watkins, Madison
Dana Richardson, secretary

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

**Send news, communication, and
address changes to:** The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

VOLUME 130 • NUMBER 31
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

Movie ratings: creeping up on our children

We may not have known what to call it, but many parents had suspicions that something was going on with so-called children's movies. As we carted our youngsters off to their favorite blockbuster flicks every summer and holiday season, we thought we detected an alarming increase in the volume of suggestive and downright bawdy scenes.

The new movie, *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*, opened last weekend with a child-friendly PG-13 rating and quickly zoomed to number one in box office receipts. The film is a perfect example of those parental concerns.

The story line of *Talladega Nights* follows the comical career of a fictional NASCAR driver named Ricky Bobby, but in reality the movie is a thinly-veiled promotion of homosexuality that includes two men who are married and hold hands, deep homosexual kisses, and a graphic description of posing for Playgirl magazine.

There are also several scenes where the Name of Jesus is ridiculed in mock prayers, and there are disrespectful children who curse and spout insults involving body parts throughout the movie. That's not counting the usual Hollywood fare of violence, profanity, adultery, and alcoholism that makes up the rest of the film. There are a few sophomoric funny scenes, but even the classic "wrap-up" at the end of the movie involves a homosexual act.

That's a lot of perversity to pack into an hour and 45 minutes, but the Motion Picture Association of America saw fit to grant a rating that allows children of all ages to see the movie.

Over and over, parents sensed something was wrong when they took their kids to see movies like *Talladega Nights*. They were right. According to a 2004 study by the Harvard University School of



Public Health (HSPH), there's a name for what parents are experiencing in their difficult quest to find movies appropriate for their children. It's called "ratings creep."

Researchers for the HSPH study were able to document a sizeable increase in movies made since 1992 in the amount of actions and words considered inappropriate for children. "The findings demonstrate that ratings creep has occurred over the past decade and that today's movies contain significantly more violence, sex, and profanity than movies of the same rating a decade ago."

True to parents' frustrations with the movie rating system, HSPH researchers found:

- Violent content rose most in films rated PG and PG-13.
- Sexual content increased most in films rated PG, PG-13, and R.
- Profanity spiked most in films rated PG-13 and R.

• G-rated animated films had a significantly higher amount of violence than non-animated films of the same rating.

• A majority of the G-rated films surveyed for the study had depictions of tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use — and that movies in general tend to show such vices "often in ways that normalize or glamorize their use ..."

Kimberly Thompson, an associate professor in the HSPH Department of Health Policy and director of the Kids Risk Project (also at Harvard) warns, "Parents and physicians should be aware that movies with the same rating can differ significantly in the amount and types of potentially objectionable content. Age-based ratings alone do not provide good information about the depiction of violence, sex, profanity, and other content, and the criteria for rating movies became less stringent over the last decade."

For more information on the rationale behind movie ratings system, visit www.mpaa.org.

Movie makers and movie goers can quibble over the details of the report, but the facts are undeniable: movies have become coarser over the past several decades, and the trend has picked up speed in the last ten years.

What's a parent to do? There are many subscription-based and free web sites that review movies and list in detail the objectionable parts of specific movies. Among those web sites are:

- www.kids-in-mind.com
- www.screenit.com
- www.movieguide.org
- www.moviereporter.com

Ten years ago, we may have asked ourselves, "How bad can it get?" Well, we're seeing how bad it can get. It's hard to imagine how much worse movies (and television) will be in another ten years. We'll see. In the meantime, don't be surprised if ratings creep breaks into a full gallop.

Updated from an Editor's Notebook column that originally appeared on July 29, 2004.

school football fields, we have forgotten God and yet our future is fragile without Him. Most of us, hopefully, still know that.

• **We trust in God for God's sake.** If a tree falls in the woods alone, does it still make a sound? If everyone chooses not to believe in God, is He still really there? Yes! When God feels far away, it certainly isn't because He backed up a few feet. We've left Him in the dust to do our own thing.

This of course doesn't give us license to beat those who walk away over the head with our Bibles. Ultimately, it is God who is going to show Himself to someone, not us, but we can reflect His love and be an example of His goodness. We can share His joy and care for others.

This is why we can say, "In God We Trust." For as the Scripture says, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

That's the best freedom of all.

GUEST OPINION:

Five reasons for 'In God We Trust'

By Sara Horn
Nashville

God to whom we've turned as a nation during days of crisis.

• **Good still exists, too.** How many times have you seen a prayer answered? How many people have you talked to who have a story of faith, where God is the only explanation? God is good. He is also kind and loving. We can pass on those qualities as we work to spread hope around the world, whether in bringing aid to tsunami-stricken countries or freedom to the oppressed.

• **We also trust in God for history's sake.** Let the naysayers deny it all they want, but our country was built on Christian principles and led by people who honored and respected

God and — dare I say it? — those are of the reasons America has been blessed as a nation.

• **We trust in God for our future's sake.** It's clear that the world is a different place than 50 or even 20 years ago. Disturbing ideologies exist that don't promise to go away any time soon. The global war on terror is very real, the terrorists are real, and they're not going away, either.

Patrick Henry said, "It is when people forget God that tyrants forge their chains." There's a lot of truth to this. As a nation, we have forgotten God in a lot of ways. When we argue over Christmas trees in store windows or graduation prayers on high

Horn is editor and publisher of AGreaterFreedom.com, a faith-based military news site that offers positive stories about America's military. She can be contacted at sara@agreaterfreedom.com. Her commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

SBC president: 10% CP shows 'commitment'

TAYLORS, S.C. (BP and local reports) — The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) presidential election generated considerable discussion about the relative importance of the Cooperative Program (CP), Southern Baptists' unified missions funding and delivery system — and probably resulted in Frank Page's surprise victory this year.

The pastor of First Church in Taylors, S.C., which gave more than 12% of its undesignated receipts through CP last year, was elected over two other candidates from churches with smaller or no percentages of CP support: Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, Springdale, Ar., which gave about one-quarter of one percent to CP last year, and Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Church in Nashville, which gave nothing to CP last year.

Page's election also came in the midst of a special report from the SBC Executive Committee on the Cooperative Program, which noted a steady decline in the percentage of CP support by churches and offered recommendations for how to reverse the decline.

However, the Executive Committee watered down one of the most debated recommendations as presidential election time neared: that SBC office seekers should come from churches that give at least 10% to CP.

"I believe in strong, sacrificial giving to the Cooperative Program as a moral imperative because of the support we should give to our missionaries and entities. I cannot say I'm a Southern Baptist and give a paltry sum to the Cooperative Program," he said.

Regarding the debate in Greensboro over the Executive Committee's recommendation on the CP which had removed earlier language calling for



THANKS FOR HELPING — During a recent trip to New Orleans to inspect the seminary there, Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page (center) takes time out to commend a pair of unnamed volunteers from First Church in Smithville, Mo., who carried out trash, ripped out walls, and hauled a smelly refrigerator from a small pink home in New Orleans that was severely damaged by floodwaters during Hurricane Katrina's landfall in August 2005. (BP photo by Karen L. Willoughby/Louisiana Baptist Message)

encouragement of a 10% gift to CP of undesignated receipts by churches and the election of officers from such churches, Page said, "We should be very hesitant about putting a percentage as a mark of cooperation and for participation. ... The question for me was, Does your church give sacrificially to the Cooperative Program? Does it give in such a way as to show a missional mindset?"

Although he believes it's "bad theology" to assert that churches can and should tithe, "I do believe 10% indicates a serious commitment" to missions, he said.

Page said he believes three factors that have contributed to a decline in support of the Cooperative Program:

- "One is the propensity of the churches to be involved in their own mission work to the exclusion of the support of the Cooperative Program," he said, adding that it is "understandable, to a degree. Churches are supposed to be involved in their own mission work."

- The second factor for CP decline is a "failure on the part of the denominationalists to truly show the Cooperative Program as an object of worth, as an object of value," he said, adding, "we can no longer and will no longer as a convention respond to denominationalists screaming, 'Give more, give more.' ... We must be shown where the money is going."

- The third reason for declining CP support, Page

said, is that "in many states there are many people who disagree with the percentages of amounts sent to a state, sent to a national entity... There's extreme differences in where the money goes and how much money goes to various places."

As to his own church, Page said that although CP giving has declined as a percentage of undesignated gifts in the years he has pastored there, he expects that percentage to go up this year. CP giving "will never go below 10%" at his church, Page told the Witness.

Recalling the situation when he arrived at First Church, Taylors, in 2001, Page said, "We were out of balance. We were giving a huge amount to the Cooperative Program and doing nothing locally. I believe where we have come to is a place of solid balance."

Looking back

10 years ago

The youth choir of First Church, Lucedale, tours the Cayman Islands, singing at First Church, Grand Cayman; Bosain Bay Presbyterian Church; and West Bay Church of God.

20 years ago

Members of Union Church, Seminary, and the Pastors' Conference of Covington-Jeff Davis Association protest an editorial cartoon in The Hattiesburg American newspaper which they say belittles people who believe in creationism.

60 years ago

Statistics released by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board reveal that 95 of the top 100 financial givers among state churches are Baptist Record subscribers. One must look to 39th place for the first church without the newsmagazine.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

AUGUST 10, 2006

VOL. 130

NO. 31

Democrats stifle legislation

WASHINGTON (BP) — Democratic senators continue to block the progress of parental rights legislation that would prohibit the transportation of underage girls across state lines without parental permission for the purposes of receiving an abortion. The bill has been approved by both houses of Congress and supported by pro-life advocates, but Democrats have refused to budge from a procedural tactic that is preventing the Child Custody Protection Act (CCPA) from progressing to a conference committee to iron out differences between the House and Senate bills. "The Democratic leadership is attempting to kill the bill by 'running out the clock,' and not much time remains," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, in an August 1 message to recipients of the entity's action alert emails. "Liberals have been unable to stop this bill in both houses, so they're trying to kill the bill by parliamentary maneuvering," Land said. "They are putting their liberal pro-abortion values before the concerns of parents and, most importantly, of young girls in need." The July 25 vote marked the first time the Senate has passed such a proposal. The House, however, has approved a similar bill four times. In its most recent action, the House passed the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act in April 2005 with a 270-157 vote. In an April 2005 survey by The Polling Co., 82% of Americans disagreed with a person being able "to take a minor girl across state lines to obtain an abortion without her parents' knowledge."



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

IT IS HARD TO WALK WITH GOD

In Genesis 5:22-24 the Scripture says, "Enoch walked with God." What an incredible thing. For most of us it is hard to even slow down enough to think about the idea, much less enter into the experience of walking with God. We do not do much walking in our day and time though we move faster than ever. I wonder if Enoch could have survived in our world. We are a people on the move; on the go, faster and faster with less and less time. It is hard to walk with God in a hurry-up world. We do not walk anywhere to do anything.

Some of you will remember the olden days when times were tough and you had to get up and walk all the way across the room to change the television channel (if there happened to be another channel). Now we are content to sit to do everything. The kids sit and stare at a screen to play games. Even folks who think they are getting exercise go out to play golf and sit down and ride around to do it. May the Lord be with us when we get in a car and sit to go somewhere, for we are always in a hurry.

Just the other day a fellow came up behind me like he was on the way to the emergency room at the hospital. We were in a section of the road that had a double yellow line. It was clear to me that it would be hard for anybody to see very far down the road. After about a half-millisecond this fellow hit the gas, pulled around me on a double yellow line with blind spots in front, came around, and whipped back in



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

front of me, went less than a quarter of a mile, and turned off into driveway at his house. He could not have saved more than two seconds. I do not believe that he was really on his way to an emergency.

The fact is, no matter what we are doing we are in a hurry. Let's eat something. If we do, we have to cook it in the microwave so we can eat in 20 seconds rather 15 or 20 minutes. We get an instant cup of coffee or a pop-the-top drink and on we go.

Walking would help us. There is a lot we can see when we walk. There is more time for contemplation and reflection because we are not facing as many quick fast-paced decisions that come our way as when we are driving or even running. So Enoch found something special in life that many of us may be missing: he walked with God and that yielded many wonderful things in his life. What if you and I refocused our lives and rearranged our schedules so that we would have opportunity to walk with God? What would it require? Let me quickly mention three things.

One is that we would have to fit His pace. Most of us are slow in learning that God wants us to move at His speed, and He

does not submit to being wrangled in to fit our timing. We need to move at His pace and not ours. It has been interesting to me through the years, as I have watched people, that probably as many stay upset about God's timing as they do about His actions. Most of us have an idea of what God ought to be doing or at least what we want Him to do, but layered on top of that and of equal importance most of the time is when we want Him to do it. Usually the when is right now. When we walk with God we adjust our lives to His pace, His patterns, His movements, and do not sit fuming because He does not meet our time frame.

The second thing required in walking with God is to trust His grace. The fact is that often times when we walk with God we may feel that He has taken a wrong turn, but He hasn't. We may think that He is not seeing the whole picture, but He is. We may think that He has fallen down on the job, but He hasn't. God knows what He is doing and His grace is sufficient to meet the need of every experience in life if we walk with Him. Moses was not the first nor was he the last to run ahead of God and try to fix things, when he struck the rock instead of speaking to it. Through the years I have watched many people as they have picked up a stick or a

stone and so quickly acted thinking that they had to do something in order to fill in a gap that God overlooked. You can trust His grace and know that if you walk with Him, He is not going to be late. He is not going to fail, but neither will He be early, and neither will He always tell you in advance.

A third thing that walking with God requires is to look upon His face. When we look at life's trials and tribulations, most of the time our focus is right there on the trials and tribulations. We so quickly see storm clouds brewing and so slowly seek out the face of God for His comfort and strength. It is when we learn to look into His face that we find life's greatest peace and find His purpose.

So often I think of that marvelous worship moment in Isaiah's life when Scripture says, "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw also the Lord ..." (Isaiah 6:1). The king was a friend of Isaiah, no doubt a counselor and confidant. The king died. He went the way of all men, and Isaiah was left in the solitude of his own distress. Suddenly everything was going to be different. In that time Isaiah looked and saw the Lord.

You probably want to see Him if you are busy buzzing around, driving down the interstate at 75 mph, or stirring up a fuss because you can't see Him. Slow down enough to walk with God. Walk down the street with God. Walk out in the backyard or take a walk through the woods with God. You might just find that He is actually there and is thrilled to have you come and join Him in the journey.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

Call for free BROCHURE
BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679
www.fiberglasschurchprod.com
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

"Hearing is Believing"

For a FREE consultation call
Jackson 1-800-844-1200 or Hattiesburg 1-800-844-5821
or go online at www.audioservices.org

Professional Sound
System Design and
Installation
Church / School / Commercial

audio
SERVICES
A DIVISION OF MISSISSIPPI MUSIC INCORPORATED

BusGroup
Commercial Bus Sales

- We offer buses from 8 - 57 passengers.
- In-stock units (large selection) new & used
- Van replacement buses (No CDL required)



800-421-9826

www.busgroup.com

Mexican Riviera Cruise

12-DAY CRUISE *from only \$899**

On October 12, 2006 board your 5-STAR deluxe cruise ship the *ms Ryndam*. HAL's *Signature of Excellence* focuses on spacious elegant ships; sophisticated five-star dining; gracious, unobtrusive service; and extensive enrichment programs and activities aboard ship. Sail for three days along the Mexican Riviera to Acapulco (famous for the 'high-divers'); Zihuatanejo (a tranquil fishing village); Puerto Vallarta (the quintessential resort overflowing with the charm of Old Mexico); Mazatlan (with a massive city market and the historic colonial villages of Sierra Madres); and Cabo San Lucas (a popular sun-drenched vacation spot). *Prices (per pers., dbl. occpy.) plus \$299 port, gov't fees, taxes & service. Add \$400 airfare from Birmingham, AL. Add \$500 airfare from Birmingham, AL; Memphis, TN; Jackson or Gulfport/Biloxi, MS. Limited offer! \$500 deposits are now due! Family and friends are welcome!

For information, reservations, and brochure call 7 days a week:

'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626
Providing carefree vacations since 1967!

Is Your Van Safe? Send for a FREE CD!

Carpenter Bus Sales, the exclusive Bus Provider for LifeWay Church Buses, not only sells buses...we keep up with safety issues, legislation, regulations and insurance considerations...so you can make an informed purchase!



If you are still transporting your Church members and guests in a 15-passenger van, and you're not sure about liability issues or your liabilities, let us send you a FREE CD entitled *IS YOUR VAN SAFE?*

Request online: carpenterbus.com/safety
Email: info@carpenterbus.com

America's #1 Church Bus Dealer

1-800-370-6180 • carpenterbus.com

Price Harris
MINISTRIES

- Revival Music
- Concerts
- Special Events

Open Dates for 2006

- ♦October: 1, 8, 22, 29
- ♦November: 12, 19
- ♦December: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

www.dcw.net/phes
e-mail: phes2@sol.com phone: 318.347.4370

Call about your 2007 date!

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 10, 2006

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

MISSISSIPPI WMU CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING "LIVE THE CALL" - 3 LOCATIONS

FBC, SENATOBIA

AUGUST 15, 2006

No registration required
For directions to the church
call 662-562-8503

*www.mbc.org, click on Events, Woman's Missionary Union,
Church Leadership Training-Central MS or call 800-748-1651, ext. 317*

FBC, MCCOMB

AUGUST 29, 2006

No registration required
For directions to the church
call 601-684-2971

CAMP GARAYWA

AUGUST 25-26, 2006

Registration for meals & housing
required by Aug. 18

Featuring: Debra Berry, Mitzi Eaker
Jason & Courtney Barlow, Wyndy South



FALL ACCOMPANIST CONFERENCE

God's...Presence in Our Lives...Promise to Our Lives...Purpose for Our Lives



Lloyd Larson



Cathy DeRousse



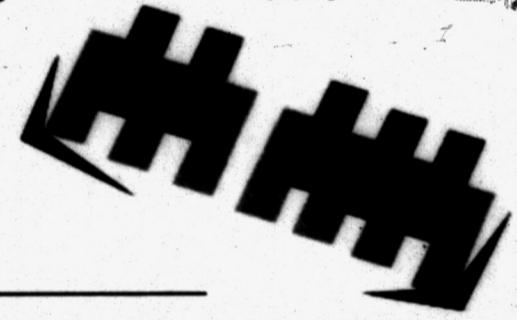
John Clendinning

First Baptist Church, Madison, Miss.

2100 Main Street

September 29-30, 2006

6:30 p.m. - noon



CLINICIANS

Organ

Cathy DeRousse
Centenary College
Shreveport, La.

Piano

Lloyd Larson
Composer/Arranger
Minneapolis, Minn.

Electronic Keyboard

John Clendinning
MBCB, Jackson, Miss.

FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 29

6:00-6:55 p.m.

Registration/Snack supper

Session 1 - 6:55 - 7:55 p.m.

Session 2 - 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Session 3 - 8:30 - 9:15 a.m.

Session 4 - 9:20 - 10:05 a.m.

Break and Bookstore Run - 10:05 - 10:40 a.m.

Session 5 - 10:45 - 11:30 a.m.

Worship - 11:30 a.m. - noon

Fall Accompanist Conference

September 29-30, 2006, First Baptist Church, Madison, Miss.

Name _____
E-Mail _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone (home) _____ (office) _____
(cell) _____
Church/City _____

Registration fee of \$20 is a nonrefundable fee per person which includes a light snack meal on Friday, scheduled break on Saturday morning, and all conference materials. Please make checks payable to MBCB. Complete and return this form with registration fee per person no later than September 22, 2006, to: Wyndy South, Church Music Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

For more info, contact Wyndy South, 601-292-3272 or 1-800-748-1651 or wsouth@mbcb.org

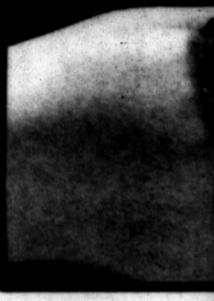
DIRECTIONS TO FBC, MADISON:
From I-55, take exit 108 to Madison (Hwy 463 becomes Main Street). Pass first traffic light, cross RR track, church is on the left.

Please see our full class descriptions on the www.mbc.org Web site.
Follow the links from our department page to the Fall Accompanist Conference.

January Bible Study

**How to Grow
in Loving God"**

John's Letters



WAYLON
BAILEY

E V E N T I N F O R M A T I O N

WAYLON BAILEY, TH.D.
PASTOR OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, COVINGTON, LA.

MONDAY 9/18/06

**BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE
BLUE MOUNTAIN**

TUESDAY 9/19/06

**MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
CLINTON**

THURSDAY 9/21/06

**WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE
HATTIESBURG**

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE AT
9:00 A.M. - NOON
NO LUNCH WILL BE SERVED.

For more information contact Sunday School
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3292

**2
0
0
6**

*Professional Certification
for Ministry Assistants
and Ministry Office
Skillshops*

Lana Rose

October 3-5
Camp Garaywa



**MINISTRY
OFFICE
SKILLSHOPS**
Sandy Sigmon

More Info: Contact Kay McDonnell
1-800-748-1651, Ext. 305,
or 601-292-3305
or E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

www.mbc.org
www.mbc.org
www.mbc.org

**Southern Rally, August 29
Salem Heights BC, Laurel**

Speaker: Don Stewart of Hattiesburg
Music: Senior Choir – Fairview BC, Columbus

- 8:30 -11:30 a.m. • 601-763-7571
- Cost: \$2 at the door Lunch not provided



Senior
Adult
Regional
Rallies

**Northern Rally, August 31
FBC, Batesville**

Speaker: Jim Futral of Jackson
Music: Senior Choir – FBC, Jackson

- 8:30 -11:30 a.m. • 662-563-7655
- Cost: \$2 at the door Lunch not provided

**GA Mother/Daughter
October Overnights**



Mothers and their GA daughters
(grades 1-6) share the excitement
of missions learning.

**Begins: 5 p.m. Friday
Ends: 2 p.m. Saturday
Cost: \$38**

October 6-7

October 20-21

Registrations accepted starting August 1.

For more info, contact the WMU at 1-800-748-1651 or
601-292-3316 or E-mail ahatch@mbcb.org

MINISTERS' WIVES
CONFERENCE

The Games Truck
Comes On...



... OR ...
**NEUTRALIZING
NEGATIVES**

with

Janie Walters

Madison, Miss.



More Info: Contact Kay McDonnell
1-800-748-1651, Ext. 305, or 601-292-3305
or E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org



Church Compliance and Financial Issues

Regional Conferences

with Glen Britt

Retired IRS Auditor, CPA



6 - 8:30 p.m., Supper Included
Cost \$5, Reservations, Please

• September 18, 2006
New Site Baptist Church, Brookhaven

• September 19, 2006
38th Avenue Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

For Reservations: Call Financial Services Representative, MBCB
(formerly Annuity Board Rep) 1.800.748.1651 or 601.292.3227

Robin D. Nichols or Carol Taylor, Ministry Assistant

Theme

Special Ministries Retreat

September 29-30

Camp Garaywa

For exceptional persons (12 yrs. and older), their pastors/ministers, parents, teachers & friends
GAMES, BIBLE STUDY, SINGING, MOVIES AND LOTS OF FUN FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS!

Registration begins at 3 p.m. on Sept. 29
and the retreat concludes at 1 p.m. on Sept. 30.
Cost includes overnight lodging and three meals.
One adult counselor for every five campers
of the same sex.

More info? Call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292,
or E-mail: jellis@mbcb.org

REGISTRATION FORM - SPECIAL MINISTRIES

Church _____
Address _____

Contact person _____
No. of campers _____ M _____ F
No. of counselors _____ M _____ F

Cost: \$37.50 per person

Due by Sept. 15

Payable to MBCB

Mail to: Special Ministries
Sunday School Dept., P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

Pray this day for...

AUGUST 11-24, 2006

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

Pray for tremendous response to the call by collegiate leaders for simultaneous prayer, fasting and campus evangelism October 1-21, 2006.

L and M have begun a Bible study in the village of Paraiso in Costa Rica. Their enthusiasm and work in this village has been an answer to prayer. Pray for them as they lead this study. Pray that the Guaymi people of this village will come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

A missionary in Brazil writes: "Please pray for V, who was released early after completing drug rehab. His neighborhood is full of drug traffickers, and he fears for his family's safety. Satan is working hard to kill V's joy. Pray that the Lord will turn this fear into faith in the Lord."

Amid the shouts of fear and fury, as rockets rain down on Israel and Lebanon, a deeper cry is rising to God from Christian believers in the Middle East: "Lord, bring peace!" Not just political or military but peace through Jesus Christ. Hatred, fear and violence cannot defeat the power of prayer.

Pray for the eight new believers in Tequisquiaco, Mexico. Pray for E as she continues to follow up with them concerning believer's baptism, and ask that this group will be organized as a house church very soon. Pray for their Christian growth. Ask the Lord to meet their spiritual and physical health needs.

For: (1) Church Leader Training, North Miss. (WMU); (2) Thanks for praying for Christians studying the Camsa language in Colombia. Pray that they will continue to gain insight into their culture in order to identify bridges and barriers to sharing the gospel message.

Arlene Miller, Crofton, Ky., is director of Impact Ministry, a food and clothing ministry for low income families. She also serves as co-ordinator of Christian Women's Job Corps. Pray that God will call out volunteers to help give a hand up as well as a hand out.

Pray for the group of students and professionals meeting each Saturday in Kharkov, Ukraine, to study English through reading the gospel of John. Ask the Father to continue to draw the 15 plus nonbelievers to Christ. Pray for wisdom for the leader, Linda Gray, in answering their questions.

For: (1) State Church Leadership Training for Churches, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 6:30 p.m., 11th noon, 12th (MM); (2) Please pray for Prime Minister Luisa Diogo of Mozambique (southern Africa).

Missionary Gregg Fort shares that many in Zimbabwe are experiencing very difficult and depressing times right now. Praise God that He is proving Himself faithful to meet the needs of His faithful followers. Pastors give testimony of having no food in the house until a church member brings them some just in time. Needs are being met on a daily basis.

Pray for Charles (Chuck) Kennan, Cordele, Ga. Chuck works with the Traveler's Chapel. Pray for volunteers to work with children's ministries, with Sunday Schools, and as assistants with office work. Pray for the dedication of the new church and the revival planned August 30th and 31st.

A member of the Connect Ministry Team in Wales was told, "I believe in a higher power, but I don't go to church." This is a common response from many British citizens. The churches often portray judgmental 'doing' and 'rules' (not grace). Pray for more opportunities for conversations like this.

The Christian Action Commission and the Church-Minister Relations Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention cordially invites pastors, staff, and search committees to a free seminar:



ATTORNEY AND MINISTER JEFF RIMES
of Wells, Marble, and Hurst law firm will be leading the seminar. Jeff also is president of a non-profit legal consulting group called "Rendering Ministries" that offers its services to churches for a love offering.

HIRING, FIRING, AND SUPERVISING: Personnel Issues that Affect the Church

**hire o.v.
for ministry**

Thursday, August 24
Midway Baptist Church, Meridian

Registration deadline is
Friday, August 18

Please register with Rita Wood at (601) 292-3329 (toll free at 1-800-748-1651) or rwood@christianaction.com if you are planning to attend.

Lunch is provided at no charge to you.

The seminar will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will end at noon. The issues that involve hiring, firing, and supervising often are the issues that can be divisive within a church body. Many of these issues require legal means to resolve. This seminar will help churches to address personnel issues in a proactive way so that potential hard times can be avoided in the future. The seminar will be followed by lunch and a question/answer session.

10-1-04
MISS MAGGIE MCCORD
Parents: Chad & Alycia McCord
Pac Rim

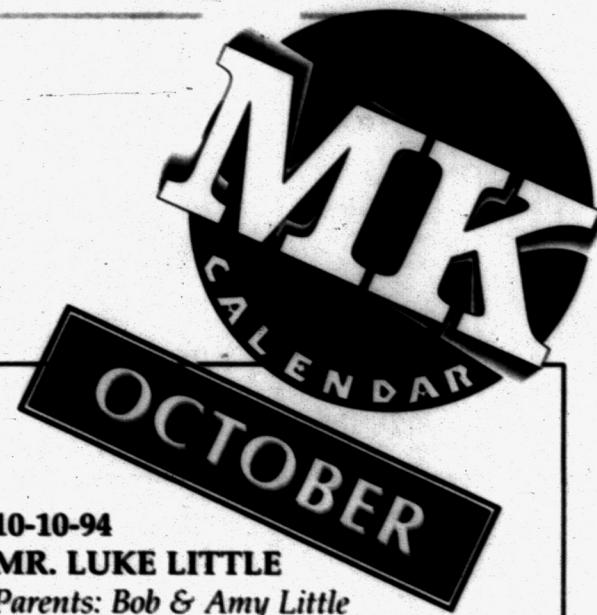
10-4-90
MR. MICAH S. McCALL
Parents: Dennis & Margaret
Agriculture
CESA

10-4-90
MISS ANNE MARIE PEVEY
Parents: Frank & Jerry Anne
Strategy Associate
CESA

10-5-90
MISS CARLEY MULLINS
Parents: Frank C. (Charles) & Lynn
Spain

10-8-97
MISS CATHERINE A. HODGINS
Parents: Raymond & Cynthia
Sports Evangelism
South America

10-8-90
MISS MELISSA K. SHEARER
Parents: Kevin & Pamela
Strategy
South America



10-10-94
MR. LUKE LITTLE
Parents: Bob & Amy Little
West Africa

10-28-88
MISS CHELSEA L. FUNDERBURK
Parents: Rickey & Lori
Administrative Associates
West Africa

10-29-85
MR. TRAVIS M. RACEY
Parents: Michael & Annette
General Evangelism
South America

**Encourage an MK
with a card today!**

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU.

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded.
Please send all to:
Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB WMU
MK Birthdays,
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

HOUSE TOPS

STAFF CHANGES

Tommy Miles, former pastor of several Mississippi churches and staff evangelist for the **Tommy Miles Evangelistic Association**, is available for pulpit supply, interims, or bi-vocational ministry. He can be reached at (601) 732-6769 or (601) 732-6134.

First Church, Sand Hill, has called John R. Montalvo as pastor. He comes with his wife Lisa and children Luke, Marlee, and Presleigh from Antioch Church, Grove Hill, Ala.

New Zion, Braxton, has called Don Nerren as pastor. Nerren recently retired from Baptist Health Systems as a chaplain; New Zion was his first church after his graduation from Mississippi College. The church has also called Jeremy Zebert, Brandon, as Assistant Pastor; youth ministry. He and his wife Brandi have two sons.



Montalvo

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

East Salem Church, Leakesville: VBS, June 12-16, with a high attendance of 60 children and 30 workers, with 3 children making decisions for Christ.

First Church, Rose Hill: VBS, July 17-21, with 57 students enrolled and an average attendance of 52. Eight children were saved.

Tate Church, Corinth: VBS, July 23-27; total enrollment, 337; average attendance, 229; two professions of faith.



First Church, Rose Hill

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

Cedar View Church, Olive Branch: Homecoming, Aug. 13; worship, 8 and 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon, followed by afternoon singing; Ed Schulker, speaker; Joe S. Caldwell, pastor.

Concord Church, Booneville: Revival, Aug. 20-24, 7 p.m.; Charlie Cooper, Rienzi, speaker; Robert E. Walker, pastor.

Concord Church, Choctaw County: Homecoming and Revival, Aug. 13-18; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon.-Fri., Jim Ballard, Weir, speaker; Roger Griffith, pastor.

Elon Church, Macon: Revival, Aug. 13-16; Sun., 11 a.m.; Sun.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Greg Duncan, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music; Sterling Davis, interim pastor.

Old Silver Creek Church, Lawrence County: Homecoming and Revival, Aug. 13-18; Sun., worship at 11 a.m., followed by lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Dale Authement, speaker; Mike Britt, music; Darel Daniels, pastor.

Hebron Church, Yazoo Association: Homecoming, Aug. 13; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Dwight Sibley, speaker; Luke Edwards, pastor.

Leesburg Church, Rankin County: Revival, Aug. 13-16; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, speaker; Jeff Jones, music.

Paul Church, Cascilla: 100 year homecoming, Aug. 13; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and a time of remembrance and reflection; Joe Young, speaker. Revival, Aug. 27-30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; George Ross, Hernando, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music.

Phalti Church, Pachuta: Homecoming, Aug. 13; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; Grady Crowell, speaker; Howard Bennett, music.

Tate Church, Corinth: Revival, Aug. 12-14; Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon., noon (lunch provided) and 7 p.m.; Billy Smith, speaker; Allen Woodhouse, music.

If You Have Lost Money In The Stock Market

And want to recover losses

We Can Help!

with a guaranteed return of principle

Equity Indexed Annuity

13.2%

First Year Guarantee

O'Mire Financial Services

406 Orchard Park Drive

1.800.844.3254

WE SAW IT HAPPEN Church Revitalization

SEPTEMBER 28-29 2006

CONFERENCE SERIES

A LARGE church grows again

Kevin Hamm

PLATEAUED at 300, a 46-year old church grows again!

Dr. Randy Harper

Outside a small town a 136 YEAR OLD church more than doubles!

Richard Stratham

A church in a RURAL COMMUNITY steadily grows over 35 years

Daniel D.

The Church
Grows Again

Revitalization

On the campus of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

PRAYER

Dr. David Platt, NOBTS, developing a prayer strategy to facilitate missions.

MISSIONAL AND STRATEGIC THINKING

Dr. Jack Allen, NOBTS, developing a plan to win souls and start churches

DEVELOPING MISSIONAL LEADERS

Jim Milliron, Georgia Baptist Convention

FUNDING STRATEGIES

Start a Business: Amy Nicholson, NOBTS student, starting a business

MODELS THAT MULTIPLY

- Mississippi's use of Rapid Church Multiplication Among Hispanic People Groups, David Alexander, Mississippi Baptist Convention
- Church Planting in Multi-Housing Communities, Neal Hughes, NAMB

EVANGELISM

David Meacham, NOBTS

Q&A ON EVANGELISM

Will McRaney, NOBTS

LEAVELL CENTER

CONFERENCE COST

Before August 12 \$25

October 13 \$30

After August 12 \$35

Register 504.816.8820

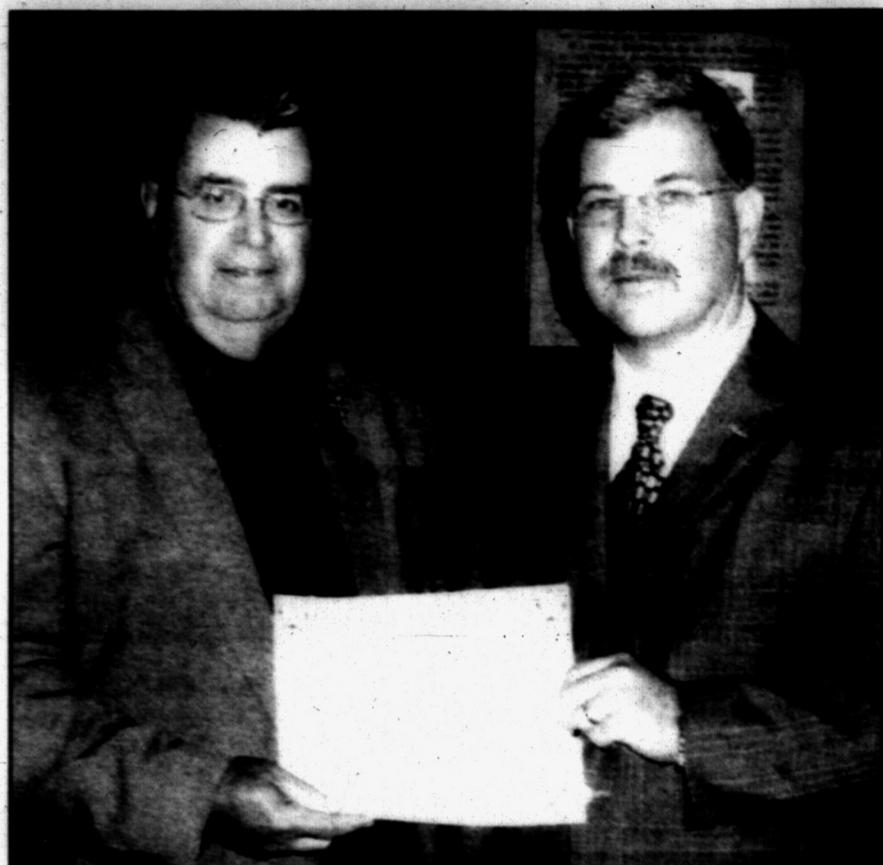
800.662.8701 \$820

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Old Time Baptism Service, Tocowa Church, Batesville

1. **Tocowa Church, Batesville**, recently held its first annual Old Time Baptismal Service at Enid Lake. Thirteen were baptized; the service was followed by a hamburger/hot dog church social.
2. **Silver Springs Church, Pike County**, recently ordained James Kemp to the gospel ministry. Shown are pastor Wayne R. Hall and Kemp, who is currently serving as interim pastor at Pisgah Church, Washington Parish, La.
3. **Sunrise Church, Carthage**, will host The Revelations Aug. 13, 6:30 p.m.
4. **Cedar View Church, Olive Branch**, will host the Bluff City Quartet at a community singing Aug. 19, 6 p.m.
5. Vocational evangelist Melvin Mordecai has recently moved to Mississippi from Alabama and can be reached at 2774 Morgantown Road, Sturgis, 39769. He can be reached at (662) 465-7548 or (205) 242-8680.



2. Hall and Kemp, Silver Springs Church, Pike County

COLLEGE NEWS



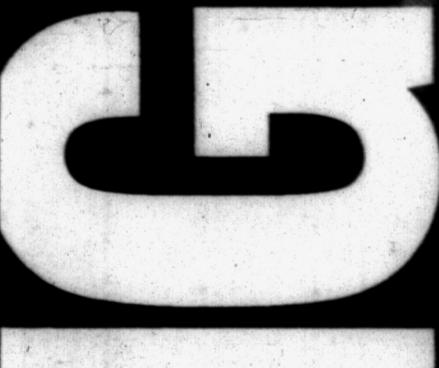
1. BMC Athletic Program goes Co-ed

Daniel Jones, vice president of the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson and president-elect of the American Heart Association (AHA), is the keynote speaker at a Centennial Convocation at William Carey University to be held August 14 on the Hattiesburg campus. Classes that routinely begin at 8 a.m. will meet on time and release early at 8:45 a.m. Classes that routinely begin at 10:10 a.m. will meet at 8:55 a.m. and release early at 9:40 a.m. This revised schedule is only effective on August 14. The public is invited to attend this special Centennial event which begins at 10 a.m. in the Smith Auditorium.

William Carey University will provide children with a missions focused summer camp entitled Camp W Carey beginning in the summer of 2007. A Christian based residential camp, Camp W Carey is designed for girls and boys in the third to eighth grades. The camp will also offer two three-day mini weeks for first through sixth grades. The camp will run Monday through Friday from June 3 through 29, skip the July 4

week and resume July 9 through 20. The mini weeks will be July 9 through 11 and July 12 through 14. The exact camper schedule and further details can be obtained by calling camp business manager Charlene Allen at (601) 307-8600 or by emailing her at ca1249@bellsouth.net. The cost of the camp is \$250 and includes meals, curriculum, lodging and supplies.

Since announcing its decision to go co-ed in October 2005, Blue Mountain College has been transitioning its Intercollegiate Athletic Program to include competitive sports for men. In February, President Bettye Rogers Coward announced that the College would offer basketball and cross country for men beginning Fall 2007. Currently, the College offers basketball and tennis for women. In addition, Coward noted that the College is in the process of reviewing team names and mascot. For more information about the athletic programs offered Blue Mountain College, contact the Athletic Director at (662) 685-4771 (Ext. 146).



FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Maintaining a Heavenly Focus

Colossians 2:20a; 3:1-10, 12-14, 17

By Les Colvin

As I prepared to write this lesson, we received word in the church office that one of our members had passed away. She was a dear saint, who is now experiencing the glory of heaven. Whenever a Christian dies, our thoughts almost always point toward heaven. For most of us, as we grow older and more of our loved ones are in heaven, it becomes sweeter and more real each day. Many song writers, authors and theologians have written much about heaven. Most deal with heaven as our eternal home, which it certainly is. However, the Bible tells us as believers, we are to maintain a heavenly focus not just for the eternal life to come, but in this

present world as well. C.S. Lewis, who had much to say about heaven said, "If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this."

Paul tells us in Colossians that we are to be "heavenly minded," and gives some principles for holy living. He first tells us to focus on things above. Paul asks the question, "If you died to the things of this world, why do you live as if you still belong there? As believers, we are to live "different" than the rest of the world.



Colvin

Unfortunately, many of us find ourselves more comfortable in the world than we should. Paul's answer to that in chapter 3:1-4 is to seek and set our minds on things above, not on the earth. That is the classic battle for the child of God. It is the battle

between the flesh and the spirit. The battle over who is on the throne of our lives. In verse 3, Paul gives the reason we are to seek things above. It is because we have died to the things of earth. The degree to which we will be able to focus on heaven is the degree to which we have "died" to self. The song writer said it best with these words. "Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace."

In Col. 3:5-10 Paul tells us to shed the old ways. Because we

have a difficult time letting go of earthly things, Paul gives some specific aspects of our earthly nature of which we are to put to death. In verses 5-7, Paul mentions moral sins. In verse 6, he says the result of these sins and the reason we need to avoid them is the wrath of God. In verses 8-9, Paul lists what we call "social sins." As Christians, we think that if we avoid the big, "moral" sins, then we're ok. We would be shocked to see a church member commit some sensual or moral sin, but we will watch him lose his temper at a business meeting or ball game and not think a thing of it. Paul says to remove "all" of these sins of the old life from our lives.

In Col. 3:12-17, Paul urges us to put on the new ways. We can't just remove the old ways from our lives. Our lives are not a vacuum. We will be filled with something. We will have either the ways of the world or the ways of God. The Christian life is a matter of "taking off

the old and putting on the new." In verse 12, Paul describes who we are as Christians. Knowing that we are chosen and loved by God ought to affect the way we live. These acts of "right living" are very similar to the Fruit of the Spirit that Paul gives in Gal. 5:22-23. They are the fruit or evidence of God's Spirit in us.

Paul has given us much to do and not do. We may be asking, "How can I live the life God really expects me to live?" The answer is we can't on our own. It can only come through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit living in us. The late evangelist, Manley Beasley once asked the question, "Can it be said of you, what is written of you?" We see in God's Word what is written of us and how we should live. We must all answer that question, "Can it be said of me, what is written of me?"

Colvin is Minister of Education/Administration at First Church, McComb.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

How Can I Handle Life's Uncertainties?

Ecc. 9:7-10; 11-12; 11:1-2, 4-6

By Ginger M. Caughman

Bill's sister Nancy is a gifted pianist. We left Jackson for a Texas visit with their sister Kay, who has been through a severe illness. Nancy had packed her sheet music and one day, sat down at the piano and began to play. I was sitting on a sofa nearby, reading this Scripture and pondering the lesson title. Nancy played a lovely arrangement of "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go." What a blessing. Isn't that the answer?

The Righteous and the Wicked, Ecc. 9:1-10

The Biblical background passage in Ecclesiastes (chapters 8 and 9) on politics, death, and God's justice has relevance due to the current Middle East war. "Death levels the differences between the powerful and powerless, but aggravates the prob-

lem for the good and bad both suffer. This should not lead to cynicism but instead should provoke deeper faith. Only God knows the end from the beginning and only He can finally set all things right." (Holman Bible Handbook, p. 366).

What will I do now? How can I go on? What's going to happen? We feel the uncertainty of our old world that needs the hope of Jesus. Scripture declares over and over how we are to handle the uncertainties of life. The answer is with faith!

Fulfill Your Obligations

Today is all we are promised. Life is short. God expects His people to live responsibly before Him regardless of life's uncertainties. Enjoy the good things of life. Live joyfully (9: 7, 9). Regarding marriage, "enjoy life with your wife, whom you



Caughman

love." (9:9a). Work hard! "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might." (v. 10).

Persist in Spite of Reverses

"Regardless of our diligent work, Christians may experience defeat or disastrous reverses. Christians are to continue living responsibly before God." In verse 11, the stunning fact: "Time happens to us all."

Many serve God in dangerous spots around the world. Do you receive the informative "Global PrayerGram"? Published by our International Mission Board, SBC, you can call toll-free to receive a free subscription (1-800-999-3113; Press 3 for Resources.) As you read these words, you may want to pray for our foreign missionaries.

Always Give Your Best Effort

Giving our best effort is not always rewarded. Sometimes results are disappointing. Consequently, some tend to play it safe, dodge responsibility with uncertain outcome, and avoid risk.

God expects His people to live responsibly before Him regardless of the uncertainties involved. God will accomplish through us what He purposed when we trust Him. Read God's promises in Romans 8:37-39.

Trust God

In his classic devotional book, *My Utmost for His Highest*, Oswald Chambers says the Christian's life "is in the hands of God like a bow and arrow in the hands of an archer." God's aim and purposes are higher than ours. We must trust ourselves in God's hands when we are stretched and strained!

Feast on these beautiful words: "Faith is not a pathetic sentiment, but robust vigorous confidence built on the fact that God is holy love. Fling yourself in reckless confidence on God" (O. Chambers).

Some of you are having your Vacation Bible School now. Early in the summer, Dorothy Partridge challenged our class full of four-year olds to "Be strong! Be courageous! Follow Jesus!"

Hanging on a doorknob in my office is a VBS necklace with a courage badge on a piece of yellow string. I wore the "TRUST" badge the entire week, choosing the word I needed as a daily act of courage to work on this assignment.

You don't have to tie a word on a string but mentally choose one of the following for your week and ask God to help you act courageously in His strength. Pray to: Know Jesus; Trust Jesus, Believe Jesus, Follow Jesus, or Tell Others about Jesus! (LifeWay, 2006).

Rest In Him

Looking up the hymn cited earlier, I was surprised to learn the exact title. In the English of 1800, "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go." (Words, G. Matheson, 1882; Tune, A. Peace, 1884). Remember friends-in-Christ, whatever uncertainty, whatever circumstances; Our Lord God will not, He will not, He will never let you go!

Caughman teaches Sunday School and sings in the choir at First Church, Magee.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

THE BAPTIST Record

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
copyrighted 2005

DRIU WLK C YLEERWXUX
KDUU? SU GKHLWZ RWX
LV R ZLLX YLJHRZU; SU
WLK RVHRCX, WUCKDUH
SU KDLJ XCCERBUX; VLH
KDU ALHX KDB ZLX CG
MCKD KDUU MDCK-
DUHGLUIUH KDLJ ZLUGK.
FLGDJR LWU: WCWU

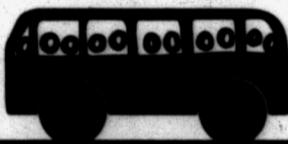
Clue: D = H

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Exodus Twenty-Two: Twenty.

For the "Right Deal"
on a Church Bus ...

Call Bill Clark

601-750-2364 or 601-992-4149

**RiteWay Bus Sales**

2069 Hwy 49 South, Florence, MS 39073

MS POSITIONS

DANIEL MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON, MISS., is seeking part-time church secretary (20-24 hrs/wk). Mail resume to Daniel Memorial Baptist Church, personnel committee, 3784 Terry Road, Jackson, MS 39212 or e-mail to dmhc@networktel.net.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, HICKORY FLAT, MISS., is looking for a Minister of Music. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, attn: Minister of Music Search Committee, P. O. Box 98, Hickory Flat, MS 38633.

HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH, BYRAM, MISS., seeking paid nursery workers. Call (601) 372-0132.

RANKIN ASSOCIATION IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR FULL-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT. Send to P. O. Box 1257, Brandon, MS 39043 or email to astephens@rankinbaptists.org

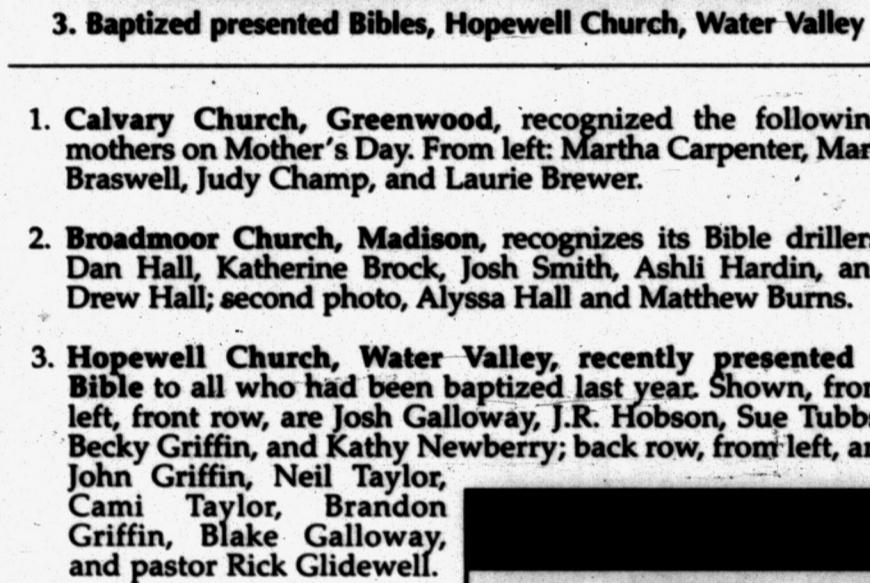
EAST COLUMBIA BAPTIST CHURCH, COLUMBIA, MISS., is accepting resumes for a full-time minister of music and youth. Please send resume to search committee, c/o Rev. O.J. Seals, 385 Columbia-Purvis Road, Columbia, MS 39429.



1. Mother's Day Recognition, Calvary Church, Greenwood



2. Youth Bible Drill, Broadmoor Church, Madison



3. Baptized presented Bibles, Hopewell Church, Water Valley

1. **Calvary Church, Greenwood**, recognized the following mothers on Mother's Day. From left: Martha Carpenter, Mary Braswell, Judy Champ, and Laurie Brewer.
2. **Broadmoor Church, Madison**, recognizes its Bible drillers: Dan Hall, Katherine Brock, Josh Smith, Ashli Hardin, and Drew Hall; second photo, Alyssa Hall and Matthew Burns.
3. **Hopewell Church, Water Valley**, recently presented a Bible to all who had been baptized last year. Shown, from left, front row, are Josh Galloway, J.R. Hobson, Sue Tubbs, Becky Griffin, and Kathy Newberry; back row, from left, are John Griffin, Neil Taylor, Cami Taylor, Brandon Griffin, Blake Galloway, and pastor Rick Glidewell.



2. Children's Bible Drill, Broadmoor Church, Madison



2. Children's Bible Drill, Broadmoor Church, Madison

CLASSIFIED ADS

FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE for the self employed. Call (800) 541-8196. Provided by Mega Insurance, www.christurner-ins.com.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC., old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at (662) 455-6743.

LOUIN BAPTIST CHURCH invites you to our Centennial Celebration the weekend of October 1, 2006, call (601) 739-3707.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, MERIDIAN. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.

PIANO, GRAND KNABE, 6'1" EBONY, PDS disc system with record, modulate, orchestra. Superb action and tone. Absolutely new condition. A \$17,000 value at \$11,900. Call Mike at (601) 267-8480, negotiable.

BRANSON, MISSOURI CONDO: STREET LEVEL, 2 BR/2 BATH, SLEEPS 6. No smoking, or no pets, comfortable, family environment. Please call after 4:30 p.m. weekdays, (662) 746-6702.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS, WWW.GULFSHORESCONDOS.COM. All size units available. FALL SPECIAL, 2 night weekend \$140, 4 weeknights \$200. Efficiency unit (2 adults 2 kids), good 9/6 thru 10/31, (205) 556-0368 or (205) 556-1524.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970.

MYRTLE BEACH OCEAN FRONT CONDO: 1 queen bed, sleeper sofa, 2 bunk beds, smoke-free, pools and lazy river. Call (843) 602-0466 or (843) 248-4561.

PLEASANT RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH OF WALTON COUNTY, FLORIDA, is currently accepting resumes to fill two bivocational staff positions: WORSHIP/MUSIC MINISTER & YOUTH MINISTER.

A full-time, combined music/youth minister position will also be considered. Please mail resumes to PRBC, 1015 Pleasant Ridge Rd, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435; fax 1-850-892-9181; or email prbc1889@defuniak.com.

DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES. Baptistry murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, kringlas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, (800) 728-8291.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, CHRISTIAN OWNED. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. (601) 992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

HEALTH OR MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE TOO EXPENSIVE? Call E.F. Hutton Insurance today ... We Can Help! Toll-free (877) 232-0686.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, custom church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

LICENSED/ORDAINED SBC MINISTER NOW AVAILABLE FOR PULPIT SUPPLY. Bivocational, full-time, or interim pastorate. Call (662) 539-4055.

QUIET GATLINBURG CABIN RETREAT: 2 bdrm — sleeps 6. Mt View from deck. Full kitchen, level entry, \$95/nite. For Information: (251) 666-2175, (c) (251) 689-9982, email: pdiw@worldnet.att.net.

CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE, 3.9 cents interstate, 4.9 cents in state. No monthly service charge. Call (866) 587-8346 or www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldit.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

WANTED: PART-TIME ADULT CHOIR MINISTER OF MUSIC. If interested send resume to First Baptist Church, attn: music search committee, P.O. Box 616, Red Bay, AL 35582.

FULL-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER: First Baptist Church of Eustis, Florida, accepting resumes for full-time minister for the Children's Ministry, babies through 5th grade. Mail resumes to FBC Eustis, P O Box 129, Eustis, FL 32727 or email to james.wells@fbceustis.com.

NEEDED: A DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS FOR THE EAST CENTRAL LOUISIANA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION. Send resume to ECBA search committee, P.O. Box 118, Jonesville, LA 71343, attn: Ralph Webber.